

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Action at page 2 rejects claims 235-243 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1. The rejections of claims 237 and 238 are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

The Action states:

The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In response to this rejection, Applicant should cancel the noted claims, or provide support for their limitations by indicating the claimed subject matter in the original disclosure.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and note that the original application contains support for claims 235-243. For example, claim 235 recites:

The method of claim 1, further comprising said one or more computers generating a medical database record for at least one animal of said plurality of animals, wherein the medical database record comprises a description of an illness with which the at least one animal has been diagnosed.

Claim 236 recites:

The method of claim 1, further comprising said one or more computers generating a medical database record for at least one animal of said plurality of animals, wherein the medical database record comprises a description of a medication prescribed for the at least one animal.

The original specification states, for example:

Since the ownership of the animal may change several times throughout its life, each user (e.g., stakeholder) in the supply chain may be required to acquire relevant data and enter the data into the central database. For example, *tracking system 145 may generate a medical record in a database documenting the diagnosis of any illness and specific medication dispensed any time an animal becomes sick.*

See ¶ 97 (emphasis added).

As another example, claim 239 recites:

The method of claim 1, further comprising said one or more computers sorting said plurality of animals based on one or more characteristics.

The original specification states, for example:

Some embodiments of the present invention may provide a user with a sorting system to *sort animals based on physical attributes, process attributes, any other attributes, and/or any combinations thereof*. In some embodiments, *the sorting system may physically sort animals based on sorting criteria inputted by the user*. The sorting system may consist of one or more devices which obtain sorting information on each animal passing through the sorting system.

See ¶ 22 (emphases added).

Also, claim 240 recites:

The method of claim 1, wherein said collected information comprises genetic information.

See the original specification at, for example, ¶¶ 157-159, and FIG. 19.

Claim 241 recites:

The system of claim 3, further comprising an environmental management system.

The original specification states, for example:

Some embodiments of the present invention may provide a user with an *environmental management system* to manage the environmental aspects of the user's operation so that the user complies with government regulations and protects the environment. The environmental management system may collect environmental information, which may include source material quality and quantity, land information, mapping information, and other suitable information.

See ¶ 25 (emphasis added).

Claim 242 recites:

The system of claim 3, wherein the server is further configured to provide access to a risk management tool.

The original specification states:

Some embodiments of the present invention may provide users with a integrated *risk management system* to determine risk levels and provide the user with advice on offsetting risk in the user's operation.

See ¶ 34 (emphasis added).

Support for independent claim 243 appears in the original specification at, for example: ¶¶ 67-68, 157-159, and FIG. 19.

For at least the above reasons, claims 235, 236 and 239-243 are supported by the original specification and satisfy § 112, ¶ 1. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections under § 112.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Action rejects claims 1-4, 41-51, 53-55 and 235-243 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,000,361 to Pratt (“Pratt”). The Action also rejects claims 215, 218, 223-225, 227 and 228 under § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0065765 to Shuler et al. (“Shuler”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The rejections of claims 237 and 238 are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

Independent Claims 1 and 243

Amended independent claim 1 recites:

A method of enabling at least one user to manage a plurality of animals from birth to death, said method comprising:
 one or more computers electronically detecting one or more animals of said plurality of animals, wherein said plurality of animals is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database;
 said one or more computers electronically identifying one or more detected animals of said plurality of animals;

said one or more computers collecting information on said plurality of animals in a database, wherein at least a portion of said collecting occurs automatically based, at least in part, on said electronic detection; and

said one or more computers, based on at least a portion of said collected information, providing to said user an indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said electronically identified one or more detected animals satisfy a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program.

See the original specification at, for example, ¶¶ 157-159, and FIG. 19.

Pratt does not teach or suggest such a method. For example, Pratt is silent as to a “plurality of animals [that] is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database,” as in claim 1. Instead, Pratt just refers generally to “the transmission of . . . data . . . to the producer for use in the genetic selection and breeding of future animals for beef production.” See col. 5, lines 48-53; see also col. 28, lines 18-20.

As another example of how Pratt does not teach or suggest the method of claim 1, Pratt is silent as to “providing to said user an indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said electronically identified one or more detected animals satisfy a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program.”

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Pratt.

Amended independent claim 243 recites “[o]ne or more computer-readable media comprising instructions configured to cause one or more computers to execute a method” comprising the method acts of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 243 is allowable over Pratt for at least the reasons stated above for independent claim 1, as well as for the unique combinations of features recited in claim 243.

Independent Claim 3

Amended independent claim 3 recites:

A system of enabling at least one user to manage a plurality of animals from birth to death, said system comprising:
one or more computers; and
a plurality of electronic devices coupled to at least one of said one or more computers, wherein said electronic devices are capable of detecting and identifying at least some of said plurality of animals;
wherein said one or more computers are configured to:
electronically detect one or more animals of said plurality of animals, wherein said plurality of animals is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database;
electronically identify one or more animals of said plurality of detected animals;
collect information on said plurality of animals, wherein at least a portion of said collection occurs automatically based, at least in part, on said electronic detection; and
based on at least a portion of said collected information, provide to said user an indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said electronically identified one or more detected animals satisfy a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program.

See the original specification at, for example, ¶¶ 157-159, and FIG. 19.

As Applicants similarly explained above for claim 1, Pratt does not teach or suggest the system of claim 3. For example, Pratt is silent as to a “plurality of animals [that] is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database,” and as to “an indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said electronically identified one or more detected animals satisfy a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program,” as in claim 3. For at least these reasons, independent claim 3 is allowable over Pratt.

Independent Claim 41

Amended independent claim 41 recites:

A method of enabling at least one user to track at least one individual animal out of a plurality of animals from birth to death, said method comprising:
one or more computers electronically detecting said individual animal, wherein said plurality of animals is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database;
said one or more computers electronically identifying said detected animal;
said one or more computers operating a plurality of sensing devices to collect information on said detected animal;
said one or more computers storing said collected information in a central database; and
said one or more computers providing said user with an indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said detected animal satisfies a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program.

See the original specification at, for example, ¶¶ 157-159, and FIG. 19.

As Applicants similarly explained above for claim 1, Pratt does not teach or suggest the method of claim 41. For example, Pratt is silent as to a “plurality of animals [that] is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database,” and as to “an indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said detected animal satisfies a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program,” as in claim 41. For at least these reasons, independent claim 41 is allowable over Pratt.

Independent Claim 215

Amended independent claim 215 recites:

A method of enabling a user to manage a plurality of animals, said method comprising:
one or more computers receiving attributes for an individual animal of said plurality of animals, wherein said plurality of animals is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database;
the one or more computers collecting said attributes in a central database;

the one or more computers, based at least in part on the collected attributes, providing said user with an analysis indicating that said individual animal satisfies a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program; and
presenting said user with a plurality of product alternatives based, at least in part, on said analysis.

See the original specification at, for example, ¶¶ 157-159, and FIG. 19.

Shuler does not teach or suggest the method of claim 215. For example, Shuler is silent as to a “plurality of animals [that] is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed by said one or more computers based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database, as in claim 215. Instead, Shuler makes only passing references to concepts like “genetic markers” (see ¶ 30) and “genetic histories” (see ¶ 55). For at least these reasons, claim 215 is allowable over Shuler.

Independent Claim 223

Amended independent claim 223 recites:

A method of enabling a first user to manage information relating to a plurality of animals, said method comprising:

- one or more computers receiving a first communication from said first user, said communication requesting entry of animal attribute information into a central database, wherein said animal attribute information describes at least one of said plurality of animals, wherein said plurality of animals is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database, and wherein said animal attribute information comprises a compliance indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said plurality of animals satisfy a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program;

- in response to said first communication, said one or more computers assigning an access indicator to said animal attribute information;

- said one or more computers entering said information in said central database;

- said one or more computers receiving a second communication from a second user having an access code which requests information in said central database;

- in response to said second communication, said one or more computers determining which access indicator from a plurality of access indicators is associated with said requested information;

- said one or more computers limiting a quantity of requested information to be provided to said second user based on said associated access indicator and said access code of said second user;

said one or more computers providing at least a portion of the requested information to a component configured to generate benchmarking information;
said one or more computers automatically communicating said requested information and said compliance indication to said second user.

See the original specification at, for example, ¶¶ 157-159, and FIG. 19.

Shuler does not teach or suggest the method of claim 223. For example, as Applicants similarly mentioned above for claim 215, Shuler is silent as to a “plurality of animals [that] is managed according to a genetic improvement strategy developed based on at least one genetic rule in a genetic rule database, and wherein said animal attribute information comprises a compliance indication that a compliance enforcement system has determined that said plurality of animals satisfy a genetic requirement of a livestock marketing program.” For at least these reasons, claim 223 is allowable over Shuler.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2, 235, 236, 239 and 240 depend from independent claim 1; claims 4, 53-55, 241 and 242 depend from independent claim 3; claims 42-51 depend from independent claim 41; claim 218 depends from independent claim 215; and claims 224, 225, 227 and 228 depend from independent claim 223. These dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons stated above for their respective base claims, as well as for the unique combinations of features or method acts recited therein. For example, claim 242 recites that “one or more computers are . . . configured to provide access to a risk management tool.” The Action at page 6 suggests that Pratt teaches a risk management tool at col. 29, lines 30-35; however, this passage just explains that market factors are used to calculate computer outputs.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, Applicants formally ask the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. Applicants believe that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution, and they submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

Applicants submit this request under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

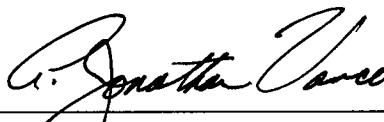
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain, Applicants ask the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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